

Serial No. 10/043,367

Attorney Docket No. 10541-640

II. Remarks

Claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 18-29 remain pending in the present application. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 18-29.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for lack of antecedent basis. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,170,763 issued to Fuchs et al. (Fuchs). Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 have been cancelled, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,405,946 issued to Harata et al. (Harata). Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 10 have been cancelled, therefore,

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the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

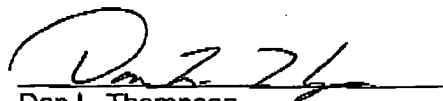
Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Fuchs or Harata in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,244,154 issued to Buchholz et al. (Buchholz). Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled, therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

The Examiner has indicated that pending Claims 18-29 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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